

**SHEMIA FAGAN**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 51



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

April 20, 2015

Chair Rosenbaum, Members of the Committee  
Senate Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 State St.  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Rosenbaum and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for Senate Joint Resolution 5, which proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to allow limits on campaign contributions.

Oregon is one of a few states that have no contribution limits for state or local campaigns; combined with recent federal judicial decisions allowing corporations and wealthy individuals to spend as much as they want on federal races, I believe Oregon's lack of limits is creating a public perception that our elections are for sale to the highest bidder. Average Oregonians and grassroots campaigns feel like their voices are not being heard through the election process.

When the public feels like the elections system is rigged against them, and that wealthy donors have undue influence on our democracy, it's a clear sign to me that the status quo is unsustainable.

It is my hope that SJR 5, along with other efforts, will begin a discussion on what can be done to foster free and fair elections while respecting and defending the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Shemia Fagan  
Representative of House District 51  
Oregon House of Representatives